

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COA-01 /059 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1623

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T LISBON 653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORT, PO

SUBJ: MEETING WITH VITOR ALVES

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH VITOR ALVES TODAY (FEB 4) I RAISED PRESS REPORTS OF FACILITIES OR BASE SOVIET FISHING FLEET. TOLD HIM THESE REPORTS HAD BEEN PAGE ONE IN US NEWSPAPERS AND HAD NATURALLY AROUSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN.
2. I SAID THESE REPORTS WERE NOT THE ONLY INCIDENT TO EVOKE STRONG REACTION IN WASHINGTON AND EUROPEAN CAPITALS. VOTE ON LABOR LAW AND OPORTO INCIDENTS, WHEN COUPLED WITH THIS REPORT, POINTED TO A DISTURBING TREND IN PORTUGAL.
3. ALVES RESPONDED THAT THESE MATTERS HAD TO BE LOOKED AT IN PERSPECTIVE. THE AFM POSITION ON A SINGLE LABOR UNION WAS TAKEN WITHOUT ANY IDEOLOGICAL PRECONCEPTIONS. THOSE WHO WERE OPPOSED TO THIS POSITION (AND BY IMPLICATION THIS INCLUDED ALVES) RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE THE VERY IMPORTANT PUBLIC COMMITMENT BY THE AFM THAT ELECTIONS WOULD GO FORTH AS PLANNED (LISBON 380).

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4. AS FOR OPORTO INCIDENT, THIS WAS TOTALLY THE FAULT OF THE

LOCAL COMMANDER. IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEFENSE MINISTER, ALVES HAD ASKED LOCAL COMMANDER IN ADVANCE IF HE NEEDED ASSISTANCE. COMMANDER REPEATEDLY INSISTED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE THAT HE COULD HANDLE SITUATION. WHEN IT TURNED OUT HE COULD NOT, REINFORCEMENTS WERE BROUGHT IN IMMEDIATELY.

5. ALVES SAID STORIES ON SOVIET FISHING VESSELS WERE TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY INACCURRATE. I PRESSED HIM REPEATEDLY ON THIS POINT AND HE RESPONDED THAT STORY WAS "A COMPLETE FABRICATION OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS."

6. WITHOUT REFERRING TO REPORTED ANTI-NATO SENTIMENT WITHIN GOP TO ALVES, I RAISED PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH NATO EXERCISE "LOCKED GATE." TOLD HIM MY VIEW WAS THAT DESPITE ANTI-NATO PROPAGANDA EXERCISE SHOULD GO AHEAD AS NORMAL. ALVES AGREED COMPLETELY. CARLUCCI

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